

REMARKS

Applicant hereby responds to the Advisory Action dated September 4, 2007 and the final Office Action of June 15, 2007, in the above-referenced patent application.

Before entry of this amendment, claims 1-28 were pending. By way of this reply, claims 3 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4-12, and 14-28 are currently pending and are submitted for examination on the merits.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application, and for indicating that claims 4-10, 14, 18-24 and 27-28 contain allowable subject matter.

By way of this reply, independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to clarify that the edge is a slanted edge, and that the direction of the claimed “luminance transition range” is “along a direction within 45° from the edge direction.” No new matter has been added by way of these amendments as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in Figs. 2A and 2B and the associated text of the present application as filed.

Claim 1 has been additionally amended to include limitations from canceled claims 3 and 13. Dependent claims 2 and 16 have been amended to respectively further limit the “luminance transition range” to be “along a row direction or a column direction.” All pending claims have been additionally amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references cited by the previous Office Actions shows or suggest such claimed limitations. As Applicant has previously noted, by detecting a slanted image edge and image pixels that belong to a luminance transition range of the slanted image edge, wherein the luminance transition range is

along a direction within 45° from the edge direction as required by both independent claims 1 and 15, embodiments of the claimed invention advantageously reduces zigzagged edge artifact in image processing. By contrast, the cited references disclose identifying a *center* pixel of a *transition region* orthogonal, *i.e.*, 90°, to the edge direction, in order to identify pixels responsible for *rapid* variations between light and dark along the direction orthogonal to the edge direction. Thus, the *transition region* as taught by the references is different from the claimed “transition range,” as also evidenced by the fact that the *center pixel* of the *transition region* in the references is also different from the claimed “center pixel” of the “transition range.” Moreover, dependent claims 2 and 16 further limits the “luminance transition range” to be along a row direction or a column direction. By contrast, the cited references disclose a transition region defined relative to the edge, not to the row direction or the column direction of the image. Further, the cited references are not directed to, and are not effective in, reducing zigzagged edge artifact.

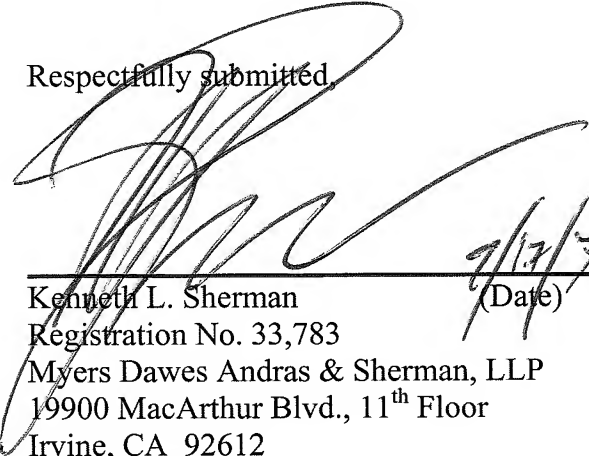
Thus, independent claims 1 and 15, and subsequently all the dependent claims, are patentable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn, and that the case be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful to the further prosecution of this case, Applicant respectfully requests that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,



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